

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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SUBJECT:KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: STANFORD PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOWING TEXT RECEIVED FROM STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS
SERVICE:

QTE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 6/3/75

STANFORD - UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROF. PETER STEINER,
REACHED IN BURUNDI EARLY TUESDAY, JUNE 3, SAID HE STILL
HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE CAPTORS OF TWO STANFORD STU-
DENTS AND A DUTCH RESEARCHER NOW HELD BY REBELS IN EASTERN
ZAIRE.

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"WE ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH A LINE OF COMMUNICATION, TO GET MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE KIDS, AND TO OPEN DIALOGUE THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES," STEINER TOLD STANFORD NEWS SERVICE.

"THIS IS A VERY SIMPLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION."

CONTRARY TO INITIAL REPORTS FROM DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, STEINER SAID: "I HAVE NO PLANS TO ENTER ZAIRE."

BUT HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEWS COVERAGE OF HIS ARRIVAL IN BUJUMBURA, THE CAPITAL OF BURUNDI, MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE CAPTORS TO TRY TO INITIATE CONTACT WITH HIM THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES. FRENCH LANGUAGE BROADCASTS FROM BBC ARE RECEIVED IN THE AREA WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE BELIEVED HELD.

BARBARA SMUTS, WHO WAS RELEASED UNHARMED BY HER CAPTORS, HAS MADE SEVERAL BROADCASTS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH AND SWAHILI BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA IN AN EFFORT TO REACH THE CAPTORS.

STEINER SAID HE WAS "GETTING COMPLETE COOPERATION AND WORKING IN CLOSE HARMONY" WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BUJUMBURA. COMMUNICATION THERE IS NOT EASY. WHILE AWAITING ANY COMMUNICATION OR CONTACT FROM THE CAPTORS; STEINER AND OTHERS ARE WORKING ON TECHNICALITIES NECESSARY TO INITIATE FURTHER COMMUNICATION EFFORTS FROM BUJUMBURA.

A VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI THIS YEAR, STEINER SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH. HE WENT TO DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, SHORTLY AFTER THE RELEASE OF BARBARA SMUTS, A STANFORD STUDENT FROM ANN ARBOR, MICH. HE IS SERVING AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF STANFORD, WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH PROF. DAVID HAMBURG, WHO IS COORDINATING THE UNIVERSITY'S ACTIVITIES IN TANZANIA.

THE STUDENTS WERE KIDNAPPED MAY 19 FROM THE GOMBE STREAM RESEARCH CENTER, WHERE THEY OBSERVED BABOON AND CHIMPANZEE BEHAVIOR. GOMBE IS LOCATED IN NORTHWESTERN TANZANIA,
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A FEW MILES SOUTH OF BURUNDI ON THE SHORES OF LAKE TANGANYIKA. ZAIRE IS 25 MILES WEST ACROSS THE LAKE, WHICH

IS ABOUT THE SIZE OF LAKE MICHIGAN.

DESCRIBED AS "AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT MAN" BY HAMBURG, STEINER IS A PROFESSOR OF LAW AND ECONOMICS AT MICHIGAN. HE TAUGHT AT UC-BERKELEY FROM 1949 TO 1957. AN OBERLIN

GRADUATE, HE HOLDS ADVANCED DEGREES FROM HARVARD. END QTE.
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